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# OUR FRENCH CANADIAN FRIENDS

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE CANADIAN  
SOCIETY OF NEW YORK  
FEBRUARY 1920

— BY —

HON. FRANK CARREL

M.L.C., L.L.D.

**M. D. PRENICE**

*Published as a contribution to the National  
Unity Movement*



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## DEDICATION

J. D. PRENIER

To Henry Van Dyke, U. S. N. F. R., who has ever shown the strongest admiration for the French Canadians with whom he gained a close and intimate acquaintance through his guides and coureurs des bois, during his many visits to Quebec. To him who in the month of October (1918) number of Scribner's magazine, wrote the following introduction to a number of Quebec character sketches:—

"If you love a certain country, for its natural beauty, or for the friends you have made there, or for the happy days you have passed within its borders, you are troubled and distressed when that country comes under criticism, suspicion, and reproach.

"It is just as it would be if a woman who had been very kind to you and had done you a great deal of good were accused of some unworthiness. You would insist on understanding before you pronounced judgment. Memories would ask to be heard. That is what I feel in regard to French Canada, the province of Quebec, where I had so many true comrades among the voyageurs, the habitants, and the coureurs de bois. People are saying

now that Quebec is not loyal, not brave, not patriotic in this war for freedom and humanity.

*"Even if the accusation were true, of course it would not spoil the big woods, the rushing rivers, the sparkling lakes, the friendly mountains of French Canada. But all the same, it hurts me to hear such a charge against my friends of the forest.*

*"Do you mean to tell me that François and Ferdinand and Louis and Jean and Luart and Isidore are not true men! I am not ready to credit that. I want to hear what they have to say for themselves—"*

*I offer the following humble address delivered before the Canadian Society, of New York, in February, 1920, as a brief for our French Canadian Friends.*

FRANK CARREL

## OUR FRENCH CANADIAN FRIENDS

Many misunderstandings of the people of the Province of Quebec exist at Home and abroad, and have been responsible for the creation of an erroneous impression of our French Canadian friends. A few of these misapprehensions, I will endeavour to dissipate with facts and figures.

During the war, I was spending a vacation in the Southern states, and to my great surprise one morning, read in a local newspaper an account of a riot in connection with conscription in my native city—Quebec. There were a few shots fired and two men killed, one an innocent passer-by. The Southern newspapers gave the incident the largest typed headings and my American companions were talking of the disloyalty and revolutionary spirit of the French Canadians. Without direct information, I was so convinced that the facts were distorted that I offered an immediate contradiction.

The French Canadians are the most loyal Canadians of the British Dominions, I said, for the simple reason that they have no Motherland, other than Canada, and no close connection with their Fatherland, with whom they broke off all paternal ties, after the war of 1760, when they had to decide between going back to live in France,

their ancestral home, or, remain in Canada under the British Crown.

Our French Canadian Friends who are living in Canada to-day are descendants of the first sturdy pioneers and colonists of North America, who decided to remain in our new world and carry on the work which they had so courageously started. They did so because they were convinced that the British Government would respect their religion, language and customs.

On the other hand, this loyal band of French Canadians, who remained in Canada, since 1760, and who have now multiplied into several millions, have never forsaken their vows of allegiance and loyalty to their victors, signed and sealed in the historic city of Quebec.

The French Canadians in the Dominion of Canada to-day, know no other land but Canada — it is their native land. They have no France, England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales, to call Motherland, therefore, how can they be anything but Canadians, and thoroughly loyal to the country which gave them the same privileges and liberties as those enjoyed by citizens of all free countries?

When I returned to Quebec I found the riots were quite trifling, and much exaggerated by a sensational and perhaps prejudiced outside Press.

The conscription in Quebec was a local political grievance. The direct object of the row had nothing whatever to do with the loyalty, disloyalty or any revolutionary thought of the people. It was fomented by the arbitrary and



autocratic conscription methods practised by the Government officers.

There are no more law abiding people than our French Canadian Friends. We have fewer strikes and labor troubles in the Province of Quebec, than in any section of America or Europe. We have more real contentment and happiness among the people than in any part of the world.

Why is this? Because the French Canadian, of the middle and laboring classes, is a philosopher, always contented with his lot in life. He is never looking for trouble with his neighbor or the outside world. His first thoughts are for his spiritual welfare and that of his family, after which comes his trade or his farm. The whole world outside may be ablaze with war or labor troubles, but his vision of life is within the four walls of his little home and his church. He is the greatest optimist in the world. He is not only content and happy, but he is unusually gay, full of music and song, with a heart, that we sometimes think, by his kindness, consideration and sacrifices for others, and his hospitable treatment of friend or stranger, is as large as himself.

In no country will you find the Sabbath so devoutly or religiously observed as in the Province of Quebec. From one end of the border line to the other, wherever you find a community of French Canadian peasants or, habitants, there you will find churches, where every farmer will be in his pew on Sunday morning and week day festivals.

This is probably one of the reasons why the visitors to our Province are astonished at the

large size of the churches. They are made vast enough to hold all the parishioners, and as you may know, the families are large and constantly growing. Each curé who constructs a church endeavors to build it large enough to take care of not only those who are in the parish at the time of construction, but those who are to come later on. To-day, there is a shortage of churches and curés and priests.

Surely this is not a crime, or a fault, to find in any race, but rather a truth which should create envy and admiration.

But herein is perhaps one of the causes which sometimes gives rise to false impressions about the French Canadians, when it is stated that they are "priest-ridden."

How groundless is this illusion? The clergy are respected and loved by the French Canadians, but in no marked degree are they permitted to direct the political destinies of the people, outside of spiritual instruction. I cannot give you more convincing proof than to recall the famous election of 1908, when priest and Nationalist were arrayed against the Liberals in one of the most bitter political fights that ever swept the Province.

Some of the clergy even resorted to the pulpit to hurl their opinions at their opponents, but their attitude was resented by the habitant farmers, and the Liberals won a large majority victory.

Our French Canadian Friends, are not perfection, nor any different in their failings to other races. They have defects and shortcomings, but with knowledge of their habits and customs, as

I possess, in spending a lifetime among them, I can see all their good qualities and among them are appreciation and loyalty to those who have been generous, respectful and friendly to them. They are like all latin races, sensitive, and this oftentimes leads to suspicion, but once they are satisfied that you are sincere in your dealings, there is no better people in the world to do business with or to live among.

Why was their opposition to enlistment in the war so much exaggerated? Because underlying the French Canadian attitude in this war, were politics—pure and simple. There was one political element in Canada, which believed that by antagonizing the French Canadians, they would retain greater support in the other Provinces. They succeeded in their mission, but our French Canadian Friends suffered in the meantime. It is quite true that they did not go to the war in as large numbers as was expected, but if all conditions are fully weighed, their attitude is far from being as black as it has been painted.

The French Canadians are, as I have said before, living very much a life by themselves, on farms and in villages. They love their soil and are not tempted by the attractions of the city life and all its amusements. War suddenly breaks out! The thrill of the battle cry of the Motherland and Fatherland, was not, at first, so keenly felt by them. The party opposing the Government in power, was led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, one of their own language and religion.

The first thought of the party in power when war broke out in 1914, was not for Union. but to

keep to itself the whole credit and benefit of the military organization, and this they did for three years. It was only in 1917, that the Premier prepared and announced his Conscription Bill, and then called on Laurier to help him pass it.

Quite different was this action to what was done in England and France, where all political parties and groups were loyally invited to join from the start. In England coalition preceded Conscription. In Canada Conscription preceded coalition. In England they made use of politics to win the war, in Canada the war to help politics.

This unfortunate political move in Canada began to arouse the suspicion of the French Canadians that all would not be well in this war. Then followed other unfortunate errors, namely:

- a. The selection of straight anti-British Nationalists, as ministers, to represent French Quebec in the 1914 Cabinet.
- b. The appointment of a Protestant minister, in uniform, to the Province of Quebec, to take charge of the enlistment.
- c. The appointing to high positions in the recruiting force of men of nationalistic persuasions who were known to be absolutely and politically antagonistic to Canada's participation in the war and to Laurier's party.
- d. That the Allies were fighting for a principle that was inimicable to their own case of contention and grievance against the Western Provinces of Canada, which had restricted the teaching of their language.
- d. The impropriety of permitting and even subsidizing and supporting, the publication of

French Canadian journals, which were daily advising their readers that it was not their war; it was not their duty to fight with the English; it was not their place to be sacrificed in the front lines of the European armies, where they would purposely be placed, owing to the hatred of them by their enemies, etc.

Let me read you a small excerpt from one of many hundreds of such articles, which appeared in a nationalist anti-participation-in-the-war daily newspaper, as follows:—

"We have no immediate interest in the present war. You wish to defend England, but what way is she any better than Germany? She expelled the Acadians 150 years ago. What right, more than Germany, has England, to dominate the world? Look what is taking place in Ontario, where you are being persecuted. All of these people are working war to increase their fortune and while you shed your blood, England is filling her coffers."

Quebec has less floating city and town populations, a greater agricultural class, and more married men than any other Canadian Province. In 1911, English Ontario exceeded French Quebec in population, by half a million. Notwithstanding that Quebec receives little or no immigration, Ontario's excess to-day is only one hundred and fifty thousand. If this same ratio continues for another five years English Ontario is going to lose her population prestige. In this respect Quebec is doing her part in a practical manner to make a bigger and stronger Canada, the strengthening of

any part of which, is the strengthening of the whole.

You must not forget either that the Government was calling for farmers as well as soldier volunteers. Increased agricultural production was the slogan. How did Quebec respond? She increased her acreage under cultivation from 4,863,859 acres in 1914 to the enormous extent of 13,292,798 in 1918. Agricultural products from \$99,000,000 in 1914 to \$273,000,000 in 1918, a war record unequalled by any other Province.

Now consider that the French Canadians are not a military, but an agricultural race. The day they dropped their arms in fighting for their land, and swore allegiance to the British crown, was the day that they gave up militarism, and devoted their lives to the development of Canada. Through their services as path finders, explorers, navigators and colonists, these hardy pioneers pushed their way through the Rocky Mountains and navigated boats on the rushing waters of the great Northwest.

*Le Manitoba*, of Winnipeg, during the war said: "The French Canadians do not occupy the same position in this great war as the English or French, as they have not the same reasons for the infusion in their veins of that warlike spirit which characterizes the English and the French of old France. The French Canadian is taking part in the war to-day, moved by a noble sentiment of loyalty to the British Crown, and he also remembers that his ancestors came from old France. However, his French blood has remained pure and he is never disinterested when noble France is attacked and

shamefully treated. Faithful to the oath of allegiance taken by his ancestors to the King of England and his flag, he will do to-day what his fathers did at each critical moment in his country's history. Faithful on the banks of the St. Lawrence in 1775 and in 1812, as were the French Metis on the River Rouge in 1870, they will be still true during the great war in spite of the insults and the base calumnies, as well as of the shameful provocations of those who wished, since the beginning of the war, to monopolize all the patriotism, all the courage and all the honours of the war. In spite of the shameful laws which have been enacted against them in the English provinces, not only in the past but even since the war began, in spite of the crying injustices of which they were the victims, and which are admitted in intimate conversation, but which no one has the courage to publicly repair, the French Canadians will do their duty as brave and good men. We, therefore, salute these heroic youths with profound admiration."

History has never given them their proper place in the development of Canada, but on no occasion has Canada been invaded, nor has there been a revolution of any kind in which the constitutional Government of this country has been in danger, that they have not rallied to the British flag.

So you will see that when war was declared, the French race in Canada was not militant. There was no incentive in their peaceful villages, to arouse the spirit of war, within the people, but there was an influence, like a poisonous gas,

spreading itself over the country, and producing anything but a harmonious response to the country's call to arms.

Again, when war broke out French Canada had a grievance against the English speaking people of the West because they prohibited the teaching of their language in the public schools. Let me quote you what an English speaking Quebecer the late Mr. Edward Harper Wade, said on the subject in the "Canadian Churchman," in 1917:

"We all know the effect of a grievance, how it distorts and puts in wrong perspective everything else, and dominates the mind to the destruction of sound judgment. The Irish Nationalists have a grievance that has rendered conscription impossible in Ireland. The British Government is using every possible means to remove that grievance. The French Canadians have a grievance in the treatment of their language in Ontario, which has prejudiced recruiting in Quebec, and will continue to do so till removed. Nothing has been done towards its removal. Do not suppose a grievance can be minimized by calling it imaginary, for of all grievances, an imaginary one is the most difficult to deal with."

How did our French Canadian Friends fight in the war?

Hon. Mr. Rowell, at a banquet in Toronto, read the following extract from a letter he had received from an Ontario officer:—"The official eye-witness story of the French Canadians at Courcelette, is nothing compared with the facts. My Company relieved the 22nd on the 17th of September and I saw their work and know what



they did. No troops, not even the Guards, could have done better. Even if Quebec has been slow in recruiting, the courage and heroism of Col. Tremblay, and his men in that fight, atone for a lot. When I relieved them he had only two officers besides himself, and eight men left out of his battalion, and they were fighting like devils still. Of course, a lot of his battalion have since turned up and I presume the account of his losses in the paper is the correct one."

Since the foregoing was read in public, I was informed that when the commander of the 22nd reached his objective, the village of Courcellette, he had only nine officers and one hundred and sixty men, half of whom were wounded, out of a battalion of a thousand men.

After fighting like tigers, holding the captured ground against several counter attacks, the 22nd was relieved by an Ontario battalion, which, the 22nd perceived, was about to be attacked by the enemy. The French Canadian Commander enquired if his men could not come over and help? The answer came back, "No, you have already suffered too much; we cannot afford to have you make any further sacrifices." To this came the reply, "We are French Canadians and we are in this fight to the last man."

To me, knowing of such conditions, knowing the people as I do, I was surprised at the large number who volunteered, for the reason that the same wild newspaper propaganda which was permitted to carry on its nefarious work from day to day, was influencing the French Canadians not to enlist, because they would be officered by

English speaking men, who did not know their race, their religion, or their language and this was only too true.

Instead of our Government, at the beginning of the war, immediately selecting, and they had a large number of them, the most prominent French Canadian military officers, and requesting them to form battalions and then a brigade, they enlisted the French Canadians and placed them in English regiments commanded by English speaking officers, who did not even know their language, sensitive nature or temper.

Then again, there were throughout the West that preponderance of British born, who at the first declaration of war, dropped their ranching implements, locked their cabin doors and made for the nearest recruiting stations to offer their services. The first impulse which brought this about was their love for their mother country. She was in trouble and they were going to her rescue. You must remember that that very migration had a wonderful influence on the English speaking Canadians in all those sections, when they saw those men leave their occupations at a moment's notice, don the khaki, shoulder the rifle and leave by train for the East.

The French Canadians, if you can see as I have pictured them, did not have any of these prevailing influences, but on the contrary were victims of political machinations, not, I will admit, produced in cold blooded premeditation by our politicians, but evolved out of a situation which was badly handled at a critical time in the political history of our country.

Looking at our French Canadian Friends of the Province of Quebec, when war broke out, you can readily see that there was no serious effort made to reach their hearts.

Anglo-Saxons it is said, are ruled by mind, but the French, by heart, and the drastic manner in which they were treated in the opening days of the war might have been responsible for much worse results, if the same medicine had been applied to other nations living under the same circumstances.

What the people of Quebec wanted was a fair deal, and this could only be produced by conscription and their race being given the same consideration in the composition of the Canadian army, which went to the front. If this had been done and the service of the clergy enlisted to the aid of recruiting, as the Protestant clergy were appealed to, in other parts of the Dominion, I have no hesitation in saying, that the French Canadians would have responded in equal number to their English confreres in the other parts of Canada.

In support of this contention, the Ottawa Journal Press, under date of May 18th, 1918 said, "In the opinion of this newspaper and of many Canadian officers and soldiers whom it has heard express opinion—and it has never heard any Canadian officer or soldier express the contrary—a great mistake which Canada made at the beginning, the greatest perhaps we have made in the war, was to organize our army without a local regimental basis.

"Had the Canadian army organized on a dis-

inctive territorial basis, we doubt if conscription would ever have been necessary. If the old militia idea, and possibly an organization wherever none had previously existed, the keener local enthusiasm which would have developed everywhere, might have produced half a million men without conscription. And not only would conscription possibly not have been necessary, but perhaps Quebec would have fallen into line from the start, with its local pride appealed to, and a great national evil averted. We are all Canadians, but we are all entitled to have a chance for pride in our own province or our own town, as well as in our country."

When Conscription was made law, one of the first men to advise his compatriots to do their duty towards submitting to its provision, was Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the French Canadians, who was the most formidable opponent of its passage in the House of Commons.

The young French Canadians may roam from their native soil, but they never forget their birth-place, their religion or their language, nor "the fields their fathers made fertile by their labor and the sweat of their brow, and the cemeteries where sleep all who are dear to them." They may become prosperous in foreign climes, but they never forget their native land.

There are three Federal members of the Province of Quebec who emigrated to the United States when lads. One became a leading chemist in one of the New England cities, the other a rancher and member of Congress in the state of Montana. and the third a successful lawyer in Minnesota.

They are now among the most prominent British French Canadian legislators at Ottawa.

Quebec stands very high in its long list of authors, poets, statesmen and public men. One has only to think of such men as Lafontaine, Cartier, Papineau, Fréchette, Taché, Faucher, etc., until they all were eclipsed in a later day by a statesman whose great personality and influence for good, spread throughout the British Empire—I refer to Sir Wilfrid Laurier—this man who led Canada out of troublesome times, into fifteen years of peace, harmony and good will among all races. He has left a void that is still vacant and perhaps the greatest compliment that can be paid to his race to-day, is in the realization, not in my words, but those of a learned scholar like Sir Andrew Macphail of McGill University, who recently admitted, in referring to Sir Robert Borden's departure, that there was only one other man now left to conduct Canada's destinies, and that was our great Provincial statesman,—Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of the Province of Quebec.

In literature we have French magazines the equal in composition and style to French periodicals, by authors, writing, reading and speaking as fluently in both languages as we do one. In the city of Quebec, I know of a French manuscript waiting to fill twenty volumes, of every historical event recorded from day to day, biographical sketch of every prominent citizen, with a full historic description of every notable happening in the history of the city, since its birth. I doubt whether any other city on the continent has such a wealth of historical chronology in its possession.

Going down to visit my Parliamentary division last summer I met a sturdy French Canadian named Dunn, one of three only sons of a widower mother, whom he was going home to visit for the first time in three years. One of his brothers was still in hospital in England; but the other will never come back. Here was a case of large numbers of French Canadians, with English names, who were probably counted with the English speaking men who enlisted.

During the great European struggle when reports were emanating from the Province of Quebec, of the disloyalty of the French Canadians because of the treasonable conduct of some of the Quebec papers, which represented an exceptionally small handful of extremists, an opposing group that may be found in any country in the world, it must not be forgotten that not only did the leading French speaking papers in the Province, openly attack this political group but a distinguished Quebecer, Lieutenant Colonel L. G. Desjardins, published a four hundred page book under the title "England, Canada, and the Great War". It was written for the very laudable purpose of exposing how erroneous, how utterly false, dangerous and mischievous were the theories of Nationalism.

This work was received by the French speaking people with such eager interest and gratification that several editions were printed. The English speaking citizens also clamoured for it and a second edition in the English language was issued.

No one who ever reads this book would ever believe for a moment that the French Canadian

were ever disloyal to the British Empire, or, the Allied cause in the war. Colonel Desjardins in his preface said: "In defending with the most sincere conviction the sacred case of the Allies, I am doing a duty as a free subject of the British Empire, as a citizen of Canada and of the Province of Quebec, as a son of France, as a devoted servant of Justice and Right. I am true to my oath".

Such noble words indeed make refreshing reading.

To those English speaking citizens of the Province of Quebec who have been brought up among the French Canadians and know their true instincts and the handicap under which they were placed in the late world struggle and their internal political resentment of treatment, that now being acknowledged by the highest authorities, to have been one of misguided judgment, their position is well understood and it seems to me it is our duty to enlighten the remainder of our fellow countrymen on the true aspect of the case.

Those who have read Canadian history and who are acquainted with those critical days when the French Canadians defended Canada against the invasions of 1775-1812 and again in 1866, they could not for one single moment believe that anything had made a change in their attitude towards Great Britain since those times.

In the early days of the war, I formed part of the Bonne Entente delegation to Ontario, and was at a meeting which lasted from noon until midnight in the city of Hamilton, where the

representatives of both languages and religions laid their cards upon the table, and in the presence of priests and ministers, unbosomed their ideas and conceptions of one another's creeds, customs and criticisms. When it was all over, there was not a man among them who did not realize how much misunderstood we were of each other and how again our false impressions were broken down by meeting together in friendly discourse. The whole question is one of misunderstanding and it can be erased by the two races knowing one another better than they do to-day.

Within recent years the farmers of both Provinces were brought together at Ottawa and for the first time looked squarely at one another and had an opportunity of talking and seeing one another.

The object of the meeting was to confer with the Prime Minister of the Dominion relative to his promise that the farmer's sons would not be conscripted, which promise it was claimed by the farmers of both Provinces, was never carried out.

When they began the discussion of the main object which had brought them to the capital city, the Ontario farmers gave the Quebec farmers to understand that Quebec had understood the war situation, and expressed their regret that the leaders of Ontario had not acted differently at the last general elections. One of them said: "To see you here directed by one of your priests, (there being priests in the delegation), is of a nature to console and encourage you at the present time, while in Ontario our ministers and our pastors take no interest either in agriculture,



or in our sons, but follow Sir Robert Borden in his extreme policy."

Why have our French Canadian Friends such a strong attachment for their priests outside of a religious reverence? Because they have been taught from early childhood that to their priests they owe the preservation of their religion and their mother tongue. They founded their parishes, organized and taught in their schools and comforted them in their sorrows and tribulations.

Many young prosperous French Canadians have often said to me:—"We cannot have any other feeling than those of undying admiration for our priests, when we think of what they did for our forefathers and the sacrifices they made to save our race and our traditions in the early days of New France. Only for them we would not now be reaping such advantages and benefits in education and wealth, as we possess." There is, as I have said, a large heart within our French Canadian Friends and they are slow to forget a kindness.

In the Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec, I represent a French Canadian division, in which there are a large minority of English speaking residents. Over a year ago, an organization was started to raise a fund in a little village in one of my counties, to commemorate the memory of two French Canadian farmer boys, who had won the greatest military distinction upon the battlefield—the Victoria Cross. Only their parents were present to receive the testimony of that little band of friends and relatives gathered on the shores of the St. Law-

rence, in their small and modest way, to do honor to their dead sons. These are some of the pictures of the true life of that French speaking race whose noble traditions and loyal hearts prompted them to such heroic actions, for no one can show greater love for one's country than to give one's life in its heroic defence.

French Canada possesses the best criminal record in Canada. Professor Charles F. Bracq, of Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., recently speaking on this race, said, that on an occasion he visited the three French jails at Rimouski, Roberval and Chicoutimi and found them empty, to the great regret of the goalers, who complained that they were not making any board money. In the common jail of Bordeaux he found the French Canadians although two to one in population of the district, they were one to two in the proportion of transgressions, and out of twenty-three hangings, they had figured in only three.

Quebec Provincial statistics showed that prisoners in goal have decreased 50 p. c. in the last five years.

On the question of Commerce, it is quite true that we do not find so many of our French Canadian Friends among the wealthiest manufacturers of the Dominion, but they are rapidly coming to the top and to-day it is surprising to watch this speedy growth. Take for instance in the city of Quebec, we have the largest agricultural implement firm in Canada, the second largest tobacco and cigarette manufacturer in the Dominion, the largest wholesale provision firm in Canada, and

we might go on enumerating several other distinct industries which are not only the most important in the Province of Quebec, but the largest in the Dominion, almost entirely conducted by French Canadians.

It must not be forgotten that this race started without any capital, about one hundred and fifty years ago, alongside the English speaking Canadians, who were backed by all the enormous wealth and capital of Great Britain, which gave them a big advantage and impetus in the development of the vast resources of Canada. It has taken many years for French Canada, starting almost penniless, to save and accumulate the great wealth and industries which it now possesses, and which are rapidly increasing in proportion to the natural growth of such trade development. It must not be forgotten that the French Canadian retains his surplus in his business. Little of it is paid out in interest on watered stocks, so that he is building up one of the most solid industrial foundations, which will in a short time surprise the world of commerce with its super-structure.

In manufactured products Quebec's production is 27 p. c. of the whole of Canada; in wood pulp and paper 53 to 49 p. c. respectively; in dairy products 57 p. c., in live stock from 11 to 35 p. c. and farm produce 13 p. c. of the total farm production in Canada.

One of the most extraordinary evolutionary phenomena in a commercial sense, is well demonstrated by the number of French Canadians who have gone into Ontario and purchased factories

in that Province, in which they are now manufacturing goods to sell in Quebec. If you can surpass this for enterprise and progress I should like to see it exemplified with a stronger illustration. Now, when they are doing this, you must remember that they are going into a province which they consider hostile to their presence, because that Province has for a number of years been carrying on a campaign against the influx of French Canadian farmers, a crusade which they will regret, if they are not already doing so to-day, because that immigration consists of the most loyal Canadians in all the Dominion, and when one considers that Ontario lays claim to an exhibition of greater loyalty, than any other Province, one cannot help but be surprised at the anomaly of the situation. I cannot, however, say all this without making mention that in that same province the French Canadians have the most devoted and loyal friends, who in the face of the greatest opposition, stand up and fight their battles against big odds. One of these English speaking Canadians is Mr. W. H. Moore, author of the "Clash." This book has done much to shed light into the many misconceptions and misrepresentations existing between the two races of Canada.

Recently one of Quebec's most respected and veteran citizens passed away. One of his old friends living in Toronto in rendering him a eulogy, among other things said: "How well he understood the French Canadian people, among whom he lived and how he hated to hear men malign them. He had had men servants and

maid servants of the race he had lived among and traded with them and he loved the race as a whole. Narrow-mindedness had no place in John Glass' estimate of the French character. He weighed its weakness as well as its strength, and he gave credit for all that the French were and for all they had done in the life of our Dominion. Had the English speaking peoples of Quebec understood them as he understood the French Canadians there would have been no Quebec Problem."

#### MY FRENCH CANADIAN FRIENDS:

Mr.-J. G. Scott, one of Quebec's most prominent English Canadians, in an article recently written under the subject, of "French Canadians" said among other things: "Sir Wm. Mackenzie trusted them, for when he went on his fearless journey into the unknown north in discovering the great river which bears his name, his only companions were four French Canadian voyageurs, in whose hands he trusted his life. But that, perhaps, was not very wonderful, because since the date of the charter granted the Hudson Bay Co., by Charles Second the trusted comrade of the Scotch officials who managed that great corporation had always been the French Canadian voyageurs.

"In building and operating five hundred miles of railway in this Province, I, myself, have had a pretty good opportunity of judging these people. With an average of one thousand of them in my employ during twenty years, I never had an unpleasantness of any kind.

"In the face of all this, we must admit the great value to Canada of the French Canadian element in our population. Instead of making mathematical calculations as to whether or not they have done their full share in the war, would it not be fair to consider whether the unfortunate circumstances I have mentioned, do not, to a great extent, account for the deficiency, whether we ourselves have not been somewhat to blame for it and to remember that those who did go covered themselves with glory at Vimy Ridge, at Courcelettes, at Passchaendale; that agricultural Quebec redeemed her good name through Victoria Crosses for which the two farmer boys of Rimouski gave up their lives, and that the brave fishermen of Gaspé coast came to the transports at Quebec in train loads.

"Let Ontario people come and see this beautiful Province and its mixed population living together in harmony. Let them give their people in their own province even half the concessions that would be asked, were positions reversed, let bygones be bygones in military matters, and it will be found that the troubles of to-day will soon vanish and we shall have once more that racial harmony which is so essential to the welfare of Canada."

There is not the least doubt that a great effort must be put forth to cement a more friendly relationship between the two Canadian races because I know it to be a fact, that during the last few years, the many estrangements that have taken place, and the grave misunderstandings, if you wish to call them such, during the war, have

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sunk deep into the hearts of parents, school teachers and professors in both provinces, and to-day the more serious results of this division are to be developed in a seed of hate, which is liable to produce a generation that may show aversion where unity should exist. It is therefore essential that all those of broad vision having at heart the welfare of Canada, and the belief that this country is large enough for two such magnificent races to commingle and work together in concord, contentment and happiness, for the same object, the development of this great Dominion, should take advantage of every occasion to emulate the good advice of church and state, in the advocacy of respect, one for the other, in religion, language and racial traits. Until that is brought about Canada's future will always be in danger because no country can achieve fame and prosperity wherein there is racial discord.

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